

The width  $L$  of the groove (13) in Figure 3, the real guide surface of the curtain, is from 4 mm to ~~[11]~~ 15 mm, preferably from 6 mm to [9] 8 mm. Within this range of widths of the groove (13), an optimal stability of the curtain is obtained with very small quantities of lateral flow liquid as measured by the amount of the coating solutions minimally necessary for curtain formation and where the curtain just does not detach from the lateral guides.

The paragraph at page 4 lines 12-16 has been amended as follows:

At the lower ends (14) of the lateral guides (7), the whole amount of the coating solutions and of the lateral flow liquid are deposited on the moving web (8), as is illustrated in Figure 4. In order to prevent the separation of the curtain from the lateral guides, the angle  $\alpha$  between the two sides of the protruding edge needs to be between  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , in particular between  $10^\circ$  ~~[und]~~ and  $60^\circ$ .

The paragraph at page 5 lines 3-12 has been amended as follows:

Liquids in the border region of the curtain (a mixture of lateral flow liquid and coating solutions) may be drawn below the elements of the lateral guides, depending on the coating weights and viscosities of the coating solutions, leading to strong soiling in the region of curtain impingement. In order to prevent this soiling, the distance  $d$  has to be adapted to the coating weights and viscosities of the coating solutions. The surfaces of the undersides of the lower ends (14) of the lateral guides (7) need to be hydrophobic. The free surface energy of these undersides has to be in the range of 10 mNm to 60 mNm, in

particular in the range of 20 mNm to 45 mNm. Suitable surface coatings of the underside consist of amorphous carbon or TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene). A particularly preferred surface coating is TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene).

The paragraph at page 8 lines 10-15 has been amended as follows:

The prepared coating solution was applied to a commercially available polyethylene coated paper support with the aid of a curtain coating device. Water with a small addition of sodium chloride was used as lateral flow liquid. The distance d between the lower end of the lateral guides and the moving web was varied in the range between 0.4 mm and 3.0 mm. The underside of the lateral guides had a TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene) surface coating.

Table 6 at page 10 has been amended as follows:

Table 6

Surface coating of the underside of the lower ends of the lateral guides	Evaluation of liquid entrapment below the lateral guides
Stainless steel	Always entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 5 to 10 mm, drop formation at the underside
Titanium nitride	Always entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 5 to 10 mm, some drop formation at the underside
Amorphous carbon	Irregular entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 3 to 8 mm, no drop formation at the underside
TEFLON( <u>polytetrafluoroethylene</u> )	No entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides

The paragraph at page 10 lines 6-8 has been amended as follows:

The results in Table 6 immediately show that TEFLON polytetrafluoroethylene is an especially suitable material for the surface coating of the underside of the lower end of the lateral guides according to the invention.

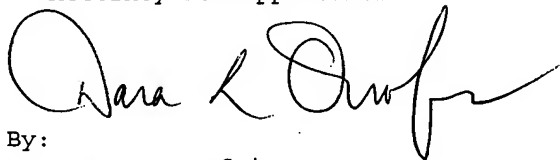
The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to correct the use of the trademark TEFLON. As indicated in Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, Fifth, Completely Revised Edition, Vol. A10 at page 650 the generic terminology of the tradename TEFLON is said to be "polytetrafluoroethylene." A courtesy copy of this reference is enclosed for the Examiner's review.

In addition, the specification has been amended to conform with the limitations of Claims 6 and 7.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the Examiner's objections relating to the specification have been addressed and corrected and should now be withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of pending Claims 1-7, 9, 11-14 and 16-18 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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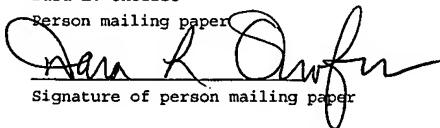
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